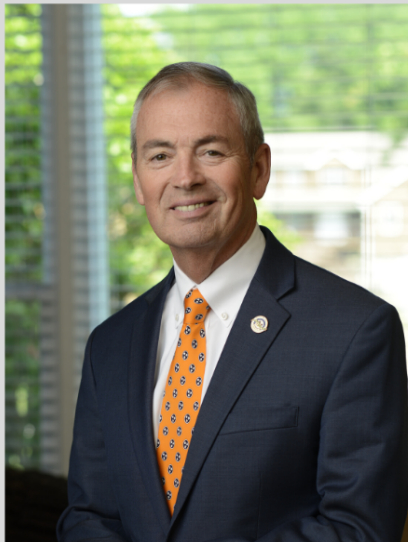




THE COUNTY CONNECTION

A Monthly Newsletter from Mayor Randall Hutto
Mt. Juliet | Lebanon | Watertown



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A Word from Mayor Hutto...

Volunteers offer to do something not because they have to help, but because they want to help. The state of Tennessee is often reminded that it is known for its volunteerism. On March 3rd, the communities of Middle Tennessee faced devastation. Through this time of sorrow, numerous volunteers have stepped in to help with the clean-up and recovery processes. These volunteers have come together for one purpose: to help their neighbors. Many volunteers are locals, others have come from neighboring communities and some are out-of-state residents. During this time, I ask you to do three things: pray for the victims, pray for our first responders, and do something to help your fellow man. I appreciate everyone's hard work and patience as we have worked through the last three weeks, and as we will in the upcoming weeks. I am so proud to see the way that our community has come together to help one another.

While we focus on the recovery and rebuilding processes, let's also focus on keeping our community safe and healthy. The public health and safety of Wilson County residents continues to be one of my main goals as Wilson County Mayor. I encourage all of those who can to remain at home and practice social distancing when possible. The Wilson County Courthouse is currently closed to public walk-in access until further notice. However, county employees are here to service the needs of our residents and can be reached by phone, internet, and mail during regular office hours. Wilson County is strong, and so are our residents. Let's work together for a safe and healthy community.

A handwritten signature of Mayor Randall Hutto in black ink.

Commissioner Spotlight: Terry Ashe District 12



Contact INFORMATION

Address: 1284 Holloway
Road Lebanon TN 37090

Phone: +1 (615) 306-8136

Wilson County LANDFILL

WILL ACCEPT:

- Drywall
- Wood
- Blocks
- Sheetrock
- Brick
- Vegetation, tree limbs, etc.

Tipping fees will apply.

It will be the homeowners' responsibility to submit receipt(s) to their insurance company for reimbursement, if possible.

**PLEASE DIRECT QUESTIONS
TO 615.449.6684**

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

Volunteers have poured into the Middle Tennessee area to help with the clean-up process and assist families affected by the severe weather on March 3, 2020. Many residents want to learn more about how they can help those affected by the storm. If you would like to volunteer, or if you have damages and need debris removal, please visit the Wilson County Government website at www.wilsoncountyttn.gov and click "Disaster Relief" under the Mayor's tab. Please fill out the form and Mayor Hutto's office will contact you with more information. Please remain patient while waiting for a response.

For other updates on volunteerism, donations and available resources, follow Mayor Hutto's Facebook page or call Mayor Hutto's office at 615-444-1383 for more information.



STAY INFORMED

The Tennessee Department of Health has launched a hotline for TN Coronavirus Public Information available 10:00AM-10:00PM at 877-857-2945. The TN Department of Health updates their COVID-19 website daily at <https://www.tn.gov/health/cedep/ncov.html>.

For those who want to stay up-to-date on the latest in Wilson County, visit www.wilsoncountyttn.gov and click on the Mayor's Latest Blog. Information regarding community resources, volunteers, important date changes and much more are available.

To learn more about the Coronavirus COVID-19, visit the Wilson County Government website and click on the COVID-19 tab to view press releases from the Wilson County Mayor's Office.

WILSON COUNTY DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY

On Monday, March 23, 2020 at 12:00 p.m., Wilson County, TN Mayor Randall Hutto declared a State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of our residents.

Mayor Hutto met with Wilson County health officials, state health officials, and emergency management officials, and again with city mayors of Mt. Juliet, Lebanon, and Watertown and the manager of Mt. Juliet on the situation and response to COVID-19. It was determined that the best direction was to consistently follow the State of Tennessee Executive Order No. 17 signed by Governor Lee on March 22, 2020 which was issued “to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 by limiting social gatherings, dine-in service, and gym use, and exposure at nursing and retirement homes, and providing flexibility for restaurants regarding the sale of alcohol.”

Wilson County has adapted the State of Tennessee Executive Order No. 17, along with guidance from the CDC to limit the spread of COVID-19.

The Executive Order prohibits persons in Wilson County from participating in social gatherings of ten (10) or more people and encourages businesses to find other forms of business methods, due to the suspension of eating and drinking on-site in restaurants and bars and visiting gyms or substantially similar facilities.

The Executive Order No. 17 also prohibits persons in Wilson County from visiting nursing homes, retirement homes, or long-term care or assisted-living facilities, unless said persons are providing essential assistance or visiting residents receiving imminent end-of-life care. During this time, individuals are encouraged to use available electronic or virtual communication to spend time with their family members, friends, loved ones, and other persons in those facilities.

Individuals and businesses should take all precautions advised by the CDC and refrain from physical contact and association—to the extent that it is practical—to protect themselves and others. The Executive Order No. 17 does not mandate sheltering in place and does not prohibit persons in Wilson County from visiting places necessary to maintain health and economic well-being, including grocery stores, gas stations, parks, and banks, among other places, so long as they observe the necessary precautions advised by the CDC to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

All critical infrastructure remains operational, and government entities and businesses will continue providing important and essential services. For offices, workplaces, and businesses that remain open, employees should work from home, if possible, and employees and their customers should practice good hygiene and observe the necessary precautions advised by the CDC to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

While the Wilson County Courthouse is generally closed to public walk-in access, county employees are at work and can be reached by phone, internet, and mail during regular office hours. Additional closures in the county include: libraries, schools including Wilson County Schools and Central Offices, Lebanon Special School District, and private schools, courts per Supreme Court Order, except limited courts and visitors for essential cases per the order, Wilson County Expo Center, James E. Ward Ag Center, Convention and Visitor's Bureau, hospital and nursing homes, “No Visitor Policy” but open for patients and staff, as well as the Wilson County Veteran's Museum.

During this time, Mayor Hutto encourages Wilson County residents to make the most of this time at home with your families and your children. “Make the most of your time at home with family. Tell stories about your past to carry along history. Teach your children how to cook, clean, check the oil on a car or gauge tire pressure, write a check, balance a check book, make out a budget, address an envelope, write a thank you note or letter, plant something like a flower or a tomato or spring starts, thread a needle and sew something, clean out a closet, and give away things to the Community Help Center or Haven House. There are so many life lessons that can be taught at home that we are normally too busy to teach. Take this opportunity and make the best of it. Let's work together for a safe and healthy community,” said Mayor Hutto.

To view the full State of Emergency Declaration, visit www.wilsoncountyttn.gov.

ASTRONAUT BARRY WILMORE (USN) RET.

Photos courtesy of the Wilson County Veterans Service Office

The Wilson County Veterans Service Office hosted a meet-and-greet with Captain Barry Wilmore on Thursday, March 12, 2020. Captain Wilmore is a native of Mt. Juliet, Tennessee and a graduate of Mt. Juliet High School. After high school, Captain Wilmore graduated from Tennessee Technological University, the University of Tennessee, and the United States Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS). Captain Wilmore was selected by NASA as an astronaut in July 2000. He has logged a total of 178 days in space, along with four spacewalks.

We would like to send a big thank you to all of those in attendance, Captain Wilmore and his family, Jerry McFarland and the Wilson County Veterans Service Office.



First photo pictured left to right: Trevor Wade, Capt. Barry Wilmore

Second photo pictured left to right: Jerry McFarland, District 5 Commissioner, Capt. Barry Wilmore



Third photo pictured left to right: Zabrina Seay, Director of Veterans Services Department, Trevor Wade

Wilson County HR NEWS

Human Resources is doing a monthly employee giveaway. We have several fun items for you to pick from. All Wilson County Employees will have a chance to win during their anniversary month. Please contact HR at 615-466-5152 or 615-466-5138 to claim your prize.

March Winners

Susan Gregory
Circuit Court
Clerk's Office

Gretchen Fish
County Clerk's Office

Georgia Baine
Planning Office



FEMA

Still need help with your disaster assistance case?



Visit:
DisasterAssistance.gov



Call us at:
800-621-3362
800-462-7585 (TTY)



Go to the
FEMA App

U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

On March 18th, Gov. Bill Lee announced that Tennessee received a declaration for Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Nonprofit organizations and small businesses that have experienced economic injury as a result of COVID-19 can now apply for Economic Injury Disaster Loans. The deadline to return economic injury applications is December 7, 2020.

Those affected by the severe weather on March 3, 2020 may also qualify for a loan through the Small Business Administration. The U.S. Small Business Administration offers disaster assistance in the form of low-interest loans to businesses, homeowners, private non-profit organizations, and renters. These loans may be used to repair or replace items that were damaged or destroyed in a declared disaster. This includes properties such as real estate, personal property, machinery and equipment, and inventory and business assets. The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage from the severe weather of March 3, 2020 is May 4, 2020.

To learn more about how you may qualify for a loan through the U.S. Small Business Administration, visit www.sba.gov. Applicants can apply online by using SBA's secure website at disasterloan.sba.gov. SBA's Customer Service Center can be reached at 800-659-2955, sba.gov/funding_programs/disaster-assistance or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may call 800-877-8339.

VEHICLE EMISSIONS TESTING SUSPENDED

On March 19, 2020 Governor Lee issued Executive Order No. 15 in order to facilitate the treatment and containment of the Coronavirus, COVID-19. The Executive Order extended motor vehicle registrations that expired between March 12, 2020 through May 18, 2020. For registrations that expired between March 12, 2020 through May 18, 2020, the motor vehicle registrations now expire on June 15, 2020. Vehicle emissions testing has been suspended until further notice.

For those who would like to renew their car tags, car tag payments will be accepted online at www.wilsoncountyclerk.com, by mail, or through the drop-box at the Wilson County Courthouse. The Wilson County Clerk's Office can be reached at 615-444-0314 during normal business hours.

The expiration of all valid Class A, B, C, D, P and M driver licenses and Class ID photo identification licenses set to expire between March 12, 2020, and May 18, 2020 have also been delayed. Such licenses shall instead expire six months from the current date the license is set to expire.

Valid enhanced handgun carry permits set to expire between March 12, 2020 and May 18, 2020 shall instead expire six months from the current date the permit is set to expire.

GOVERNOR'S VOLUNTEER STARS AWARD WINNERS AND NOMINEES

Submitted by Sara Davenport

The past few weeks could easily be described as chaotic for Wilson County. The tornadoes that ripped through Middle Tennessee on March 3rd left a path of destruction through Davidson, Putnam and Wilson counties. Despite the devastation, volunteers both far and near have yet to cease efforts to help one another even in the midst of the Coronavirus pandemic. We'd like to say a very special thank you to these volunteers for everything you've done and continue to do for our citizens. We couldn't possibly name all the people who have reached out in a number of ways but please know, you are greatly appreciated. You truly are the embodiment of the volunteer state.

Just for a moment, we'd like to rewind to February 20, 2020. On this night, Wilson County honored those who had been nominated and chosen as winners of the 2019 Governor's Volunteer Stars Award.

Nine county citizens were honored with the prestigious award during the Lebanon Wilson Chamber of Commerce Annual Membership Meeting & Awards Celebration. Recipients were recognized during the night's events with the presentation of a plaque for their volunteer efforts. We'd like to say a special thank you to Wilson Bank & Trust for sponsoring the plaques as well as tickets to the event for our recipients.

These volunteers have distinguished themselves among their peers for various types of volunteerism. From their work with the homeless to our local students, DrugFree WilCo and everything in between these volunteers make a difference, each day for the betterment of our communities.

The Governor's Volunteer Stars Awards (GVSA) is an initiative from Volunteer Tennessee that seeks to recognize outstanding volunteers from each of Tennessee's 95 Counties. With the program now in its twelfth year, participating counties conduct a call for nominations and recognize one outstanding youth and one outstanding adult volunteer.



Pictured left to right: Gillian Fuhrmeister, Youth Winner, Wilson County Mayor, Randall Hutto



Pictured left to right: Angela Butler, Nominee, Wilson County Mayor, Randall Hutto



Pictured left to right: Curt Baker, Nominee, Wilson County Mayor, Randall Hutto



Pictured left to right: Kim Cunningham-Green, Nominee, Wilson County Mayor, Randall Hutto



Pictured left to right: Tiffany Stott, Nominee, Wilson County Mayor, Randall Hutto



Pictured left to right: Steve Wheeley, Adult Winner, Wilson County Mayor, Randall Hutto



Pictured left to right: Debbie Jennings, Nominee, Wilson County Mayor, Randall Hutto



Pictured left to right: Mike Pruitt, Nominee, Wilson County Mayor, Randall Hutto



Pictured left to right: Maggie Lea, Nominee, Wilson County Mayor, Randall Hutto

WILSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT SERVICES CONTINUE DURING COVID-19 RESPONSE

The public health and safety of our residents are always a top priority for Wilson County. County employees are here to service the needs of our residents—from answering questions to processing vehicle tags, payments, recording deeds, etc. While services continue to be provided, our county buildings will generally be closed to public walk-in access from Thursday, March 19th until further notice. County employees are at work and can be reached by phone, internet, and mail during regular office hours.

CONTACT US

County Clerk's Office (615) 444-0314

Trustee's Office (615) 444-0894

Register of Deeds (615) 443-2611

Property Assessor (615) 444-8661


Planning Office (615) 444-2836

Mayor's Office (615) 444-1383

Finance Office (615) 443-2630

Human Resources (615) 466-5122

Veterans Services Office (615) 444-2460



Wilson County
Government
Offices will be
CLOSED on
Friday April 10,
2020 in observance
of Good Friday.